



ANNUAL REPORT

. . . OF . . .

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

. . . OF THE . . .

Pocklington Rural District Council

FOR 1940.



W. & C. FORTH (PRINTERS), DEAN'S LANE, POCKLINGTON.

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As Medical Officer of Health for the Rural District of Pocklington, I beg to submit to you the following Report for the year ended December 31st, 1940.

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND CHARACTER AND GENERAL STATISTICS OF THE DISTRICT.

The Pocklington Rural District is situated in the East Riding of Yorkshire, having York to the West and Great Driffield and Beverley to the East. It comprises 31 parishes, the total area of which is 101,521 acres, or 158 square miles. The total population at the census of 1931 was 12,723 ; estimated at midsummer 1940, 13,360. The number of inhabited houses is 3,527 and the number of families or separate occupiers is 3,527 (normally). The assessable value is £38,652, the sum represented by a penny rate on that amount being £161 10s. 0d.

The District is almost entirely agricultural, and the chief occupations are in connection with that industry.

The 31 parishes comprising the District also form the area of the Pocklington Guardians Committee. The ordinary cases of illness amongst the poor are treated in the Public Assistance Institution, cases requiring hospital treatment being sent to the Hull Royal Infirmary or York County Hospital.

						Total.	M.	F.	
Births.	Births	{	Legitimate	198	90	108	
			Illegitimate	9	4	5	
Deaths.	Deaths	177	112	65	
	Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth	{	From Sepsis	0			
			From other causes	0			
	Deaths of infants under 1 year of age—								
		Legitimate...10	Illegitimate...0		Total...10				
	Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0	
	,, , Whooping Cough (all ages)...	0	
	,, , Diarrhoea (Gastro Enteritis) under 2 years of age	0	
	,, , Cancer (all ages): M 14, F 7	21	

Prevalence of, and control over, infectious and other diseases.

The number of cases notified during the year was 98 as compared with 61 in the previous year.

Disease.		Total Cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Diphtheria		6	6	—
Scarlet Fever		20	20	—
Enteric Fever (Paratyphoid)		2	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia and Puerperal Fever	...	0	—	—
Pneumonia		8	—	6
Erysipelas		1	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica		0	—	—
Polio Encephalitis		1	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis		0	—	—
Poliomyelitis		1	—	—
Measles		53	—	—
Tuberculosis—	{ M	4...	—	—
(a) Pulmonary		F 1...	—	—
		Total 5...	5	4
	{ M	1...	—	—
(b) Non-Pulmonary		F 0...	—	—
		Total 1...	1	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum		0	—	—

Analysis of total cases of Infectious Disease.

Cases notified 98.

No.	Years.
0	under 1
4	1 to 3
3	3 - 4
13	4 - 5
52	5 - 10
8	10 - 15
2	15 - 20
2	20 - 30
3	30 - 40
5	40 - 50
6	50 & over

98

The number of deaths from Tuberculosis was 4 and the number notified was 6. The cases of Tuberculosis are usually always notified, but if not it is generally where a case is rapidly moved for sanatorium treatment, cases notified in previous years, or where a resident of the District dies outside the District.

Analysis of deaths from Notifiable Infectious Diseases.

No.	Years.
1	under 1
0	1 to 3
0	3 - 10
0	10 - 20
2	20 - 35
2	35 - 40
0	40 - 50
6	50 & upwards (pneumonia)

10

CAUSES OF SICKNESS.

The only special cases of sickness were due to the prevalence of Measles and Scarlet Fever of which there were 53 cases of the former and 22 of the latter.

SECTION B.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

General Provision of Health Services in the District.

One qualified Sanitary Inspector is employed by the Council as a whole time officer, whose salary is contributed to under the Public Health Act. No other officers, health visitors or nurses are employed by the Council.

A health visitor periodically visits the District from the County Council.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

In ordinary cases of sickness the nursing is done by the other members of the family unless the services of a trained nurse are requisitioned.

General.

The East Riding Nursing Association sends nurses to working class patients who are subscribers, but these nurses are generally employed as monthly nurses, although their help is frequently given for cases of illness.

Infectious Diseases.

The milder forms of infectious disease are nursed by the other members of the family or by getting a reliable help if possible. This applies to Measles, Whooping Cough, Chicken Pox, &c. In the more serious diseases such as Scarlet, Diphtheria, Enteric, &c., most cases are removed, whenever possible, to the Isolation Hospital at Driffield. Unless this is done it is practically impossible to do anything approaching proper isolation in the patient's dwellinghouse.

There are no definite arrangements whereby nursing is supplied either by the County or Local Authority, the only private Association being the East Riding Association.

All cases of Puerperal Fever or Puerperal Pyrexia are notified to the County Medical Officer of Health.

There are no voluntary workers and no local arrangements are made for general nursing.

Midwives.

The East Riding County Council have midwives in certain areas in the District where it is considered necessary, and they are paid by the Council and employed as whole time officers.

Laboratory Work.

Medical men in the District can have bacteriological examinations made by the Hull Royal Infirmary and the Emergency Laboratory at Pocklington free of charge in cases of Diphtheria, Enteric, and Pulmonary Tuberculosis. The Council supply diphtheria antitoxin to any practitioners in the District who require it for either general or prophylactic use.

During the year 90 bacteriological examinations were made.

Hospitals provided or subsidised by the Local Authority or by the County Council.

The Raywell Sanatorium is provided by the County Council. It is situated near Cottingham and has accommodation for 31 adults and 14 children. If there was not available accommodation at Raywell the County Council would make arrangements for a bed at some other Sanatorium such as Withernsea or Aysgarth.

Tuberculosis.

- Maternity.** There is no Maternity Hospital in the District, but cases are admitted, for those who are very poor, to the Public Assistance Institution. Generally they are single women.
- Children.** Any cases requiring Hospital treatment are sent to either York County Hospital or the Hull Royal Infirmary, but there is no Hospital in the District. Cases amongst the very poor are sent to the Public Assistance Institution.
- An Orthopædic Hospital at Kirbymoorside is now available for cripple children, on application to the County Authorities.
- Fever.** There is no Fever Hospital in the District, but the County provide an Isolation Hospital for the District at Driffeld, which has accommodation for 62 beds.
- Smallpox.** The County Authorities have a Smallpox Hospital at Shiptonthorpe which has 18 beds.
- There is no institution in the District for unmarried mothers, but when they have no home they are admitted on request to the Lying-in Ward at the Public Assistance Institution before confinement. This institution is in Pocklington, which parish is now within the District.
- Ambulance Facilities.
For infectious Cases.** A motor Ambulance is provided from the Driffeld Isolation Hospital by the County Authorities.
- Non-infectious and
Accident Cases.** No ambulance is provided by the Authorities ; a car would be hired and paid for through Public Assistance if the person was unable to provide it.
- Clinics and
Treatment Centres ;
Maternity and Child
Welfare Centres.** A centre has been opened in the District by the County Council at Pocklington. Nurses to superintend these meetings are sent by the County Council, and they examine and weigh the infants and give advice to mothers regarding them. There are no day nurseries or school clinics in the District.
- Tuberculosis.** Cases of Tuberculosis are, if the house accommodation be satisfactory, nursed at home ; if not, the case is removed to a Sanatorium, usually the Raywell Sanatorium, owned and maintained by the County Authority. If this is not available other Sanatoria would be used, such as Withernsea or Aysgarth. These institutions are all outside the District.
- Venereal Diseases.** Arrangements have been made by the County Authorities whereby any one suffering from Venereal Disease can get free treatment either at the York County Hospital or the Hull Royal Infirmary. There is very little Venereal Disease in the District.
- Evacuation.** In 1939 a sick bay was provided for treatment of Evacuees. The house, known as the Red House, Pocklington, is spacious and well arranged for such a purpose. There are five wards each capable of accommodating four patients comfortably, and more could be treated in an emergency. Good work has been carried on throughout the year.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Water Supply.

The whole of the District with the exception of Barmby Moor, Goodmanham and Market Weighton, Pocklington, Shiptonthorpe and Londesborough is supplied by the Regional Scheme from springs in the chalk wolds. The supply is pure and abundant and is adequately protected from every source of pollution.

Three of the parishes mentioned above are supplied by private companies or by estates while Barmby Moor and Shiptonthorpe are partly supplied by bores sunk by the Council 30 years ago. Both villages are now connected to the Regional Scheme which can be turned on when necessary.

In the event of interference with the Regional Scheme by enemy action alternative supplies are assured in all villages from private sources. Any supplies used would be chlorinated.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The need for proper sewerage schemes in every village is still great. The water supply has led householders to instal baths and W.C's and the greater number of the villages are still served only by the joint highway drain, to which, as years went on, sewage connections were made for want of better facilities. Now these drains are unable to cope with the present day requirements and the problem becomes greater year by year.

Drainage and Sewerage ; Rivers and Streams.

No large extension of sewerage has taken place. A few short extensions, repairs and maintenance are only to be recorded. The reconstruction of Market Weighton Sewage Works was under consideration and plans were laid before the Council, but the work was postponed until the end of the war.

The Privy, W.C. and Closet Accommodation in the District.

The most common form of closet accommodation in the villages is the privy. In the more populous parts these privies are giving way rapidly to the water carriage and in the parish of Pocklington with a population of 2,661 only a few remain, while at Market Weighton, a parish of 1,770, replacement is proceeding. In many of the villages water closets are being installed and drained to septic tanks. The privies number 1,500, pail closets 810 and water closets 1,180.

Arrangements for the removal of house refuse, and cleansing of earth closets and ashpits in the District.

In Market Weighton and Pocklington the scavenging is delegated to the Parish Councils. In five other parishes, Barmby Moor, Bishop Wilton, Shiptonthorpe, Wilberfoss and Sancton, a monthly house to house collection of refuse has been inaugurated. Suitable tips have been found and these are put under the care of the collector. In several other villages, ground such as an old chalk quarry is available for the deposit of refuse.

Similar systems will become necessary in nearly all villages as time goes on, and a general scheme of refuse collection and controlled disposal is foreshadowed.

Salvage.

A salvage of Waste Scheme was put into operation in the early part of the year. There was a good response and by the end of the year many

tons of waste paper had been baled and disposed of and about 50 tons of scrap iron had been collected. The scheme includes the collection of glass, rags, and bones. The scattered nature of the District makes collection difficult and costly

Sanitary
Administration.

Dwellinghouses inspected	184
„ notices served	26
New houses built	24
Have building By-Laws been adopted?	Yes
Dwellinghouses disinfected after cases of ordinary infectious disease	45
Dwellinghouses disinfected after cases of Phthisis	all
Schools disinfected after cases of ordinary infectious diseases	—
Dwellinghouses found overcrowded.....	—
„ newly drained	4
„ redrained	2
Privies converted to W.C's	8
„ „ pail closets.....	Nil
Offensive trades inspected.....	0
Total number of nuisances found	19
„ „ abated	19

Many schools and village halls were disinfected after being used as Rest Centres.

Some overcrowding in dwellinghouses must be acknowledged owing to the circumstances.

Water Supplies—

Houses newly supplied with water mains	33
New wells made.....	Nil
New bore wells made	Nil
Wells closed, water unsafe.....	Many gone out of use
Samples of water sent for examination	Nil
Water certificates granted for new houses in Rural Districts...	Nil

Dairies and Cowsheds—

Number of dairies and cowsheds on register.....	560
Number of Cows	2,000
Visits to cowsheds and dairies	50
Defects found	2
„ remedied	2

Slaughter Houses—

Number on Register—registered 12, licensed 8.....	20
Visits to	20
Number of defects found	Nil
„ „ remedied	Nil

Common Lodging Houses—

Number on Register	2
Visits to	4

Number of defects found	0
„ „ remedied	0
Canal Boats inspected.....	0

Camping Sites—

There is some camping on a small scale in various parts of the District, the sites being in use only a few days.

No licence has been applied for.

The estimated maximum number of campers resident at one time is 60.

Shops Act, 1934—

There has been little action taken in regard to the Act. All premises inspected have been satisfactory.

Smoke Abatement—

There is no call for any action in the Rural Area.

Swimming Baths and Pools—

There is no public bath or any privately owned bath open to the public. There is one private swimming bath in connection with Pocklington School.

Bugs—

No case of infestation was brought to notice.

Immunisation against Diphtheria has been systematically carried out at all the schools in the district. Up to the present date I have completed about 1,600 cases and there now remains only a small number to do. The percentage has not yet been arrived at, but, taking an approximate calculation, I should say it was distinctly high and very satisfactory.

General inspection of the District.

The general inspection of premises, occupations, &c., coming under the control of the Council is on a much larger scale than indicated by the figures. Many surprise inspections and visits are made and unless any special incident arises therefrom are not recorded.

Factories Act.

Only three factories employ a number of hands. The remainder chiefly consist of one man businesses and number 105. The general cleanliness is satisfactory. A great number of these are rooms or buildings attached to the cottage where the worker lives, and the domestic sanitary arrangements are in common. The sanitary conditions of the larger establishments are satisfactory.

Rag Flock Acts, 1911 and 1928.

There are no premises in the area on which Rag Flock is manufactured.

Schools.

These are inspected periodically. No case of insanitary conditions was reported during the year. Nearly every school is connected with the Regional or other water scheme.

SECTION D.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

Housing Statistics.

Total	24
(a) By the Local Authority	20
(b) By private enterprise	4

Building has come to a standstill. In normal times there would still have been a shortage of good housing accommodation and the prevailing conditions have aggravated the position. Nevertheless, having regard to the circumstances, three to four thousand extra people have found comfortable accommodation within the area.

Unhealthy Areas. There are no unhealthy areas.

By-laws. There are no by-laws in force relating to houses or to houses let in lodgings.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply. Frequent inspections are made of cowsheds and dairies.

Action regarding tubercular milk or cattle consists of reporting suspected cows to the Veterinary Officer of the County Council.

No licence has been granted in the District for the sale of milk under any special designation, and no refusal or revocation of registration has occurred.

Milk and Dairies
Order, 1926. Registrations under the Order at the end of the year numbered 560.

Each registration form sent out is accompanied by a leaflet which sets out at length the provisions of the Order.

Many improvements already have taken place and there is a general desire on the part of cowkeepers to meet the requirements. During the year several new floors were laid in cowsheds. Ventilation and lighting were improved and several new footpaths near sheds were made. The old method of milk distribution from cans is being gradually replaced throughout the whole District by bottled milk.

Meat. Central slaughtering has taken the place of the individual slaughterhouses. The slaughtering establishment is not within the Council's area.

Systematic inspections are made from time to time of all butchers' shops, fish shops, bakeshops, common lodging houses, milk and meat purveyors, fellmongers' premises, &c.

Particulars of slaughterhouses—

	In Dec., 1933.
Registered	12
Licensed	8
	<hr/>
Total	20

Food and Drugs. The Food and Drugs Acts are now jointly the concern of the Council and the County Council.

In conclusion I have pleasure in presenting my report. The Birth rate and the Death rate are both higher than last year, the number of births being increased by 31 and the number of deaths by 32. The population of the area is higher than in normal times. Twenty-four new houses have been built, the most of these were commenced building before 1940. There are no prospects of further building in the meantime. A number of sanitary improvements have taken place. My own services and those of the Public Health Staff have been diverted into extraordinary channels and it must be recorded that the abnormal circumstances have been successfully coped with.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

Alf Fairweather.

Medical Officer of Health.

FAIRCOTE, POCKLINGTON.

